
From: Darren Jackson <dj.electrical@bigpond.com>
Sent: Saturday, 28 October 2017 3:49 PM
To: Ring Fencing
Subject: ASP In Rural Areas

Hi,

My name is Darren Jackson and I'm a Level 2 ASP based in Bourke in Far Western NSW.

I have received an email from Essential Energy which explains their intention of entering the contestable market as a "last resort".

As the only Level 2 ASP in Bourke, I have no problem with Essential Energy entering the contestable market and I actually welcome it.

Essential Energy have enormous overhead costings and I'm aware of their pricing schedule which is extremely expensive.

I'm more than confident that I would be a far cheaper option for customers in Far West NSW.

My biggest concern is how will Essential Energy ensure that **ALL** contestable works will be sent out to the market for all ASP's to tender/ quote on?

Essential Energy field staff, especially in rural communities, are still performing contestable level 2 works at their discretion and without competition.

There is no correspondence to any customers that they need to contact an ASP in the first instance.

A vast majority of customers don't understand the meaning of "contestable works" and think that only Essential Energy can do this type of work.

Essential Energy currently have a "Request for Service Works" Form online which allows general electricians to request their Level 2 contestable service work requirements to Essential Energy.

Essential Energy then complete this work without any competition.

This form bypasses the local Level 2 ASP and allows Essential Energy to perform this work without competition.

I would like to see this form deleted from the Essential Energy system to allow for greater competition between Essential Energy and Level 2 ASP's.

On the other hand, this form could still remain but then submitted via the proposed Essential Energy web site for competitive market testing and give all ASP's an opportunity to quote on this work.

The proposal of directing customers to local ASP's in the first instance is a great idea. This will ensure that Level 2 ASP's and Essential Energy are on an even playing field.

The proposal of Essential Energy advertising their rates online is also another great idea.

My biggest concern is how will Essential Energy enforce these new changes?

Also how will they ensure that their Field staff will adhere and abide by these new rules and not continue to supply these services without competition in rural areas?

An even playing field is best practice for all involved, especially the end customer.

Thank you for the opportunity on allowing us ASP's a voice in this matter.

If any further information is required, then please contact me via email or call 0439 992 835.

Kind regards

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